Patent
Attorney Docket: 272/090

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Peter Thornton

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: INTRAVASCULAR DEVICE FOR VENTING AN INFLATABLE CHAMBER

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Examiner: Not yet assigned

PARENT APPLICATION INFORMATION:
Serial No. 09/574,289
Filed May 19, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Kindly amend the above-identified application before calculating the filing fee as follows:

In the Specification:

Please amend the continuing data before the first line of page 1 to read as follows:

-- This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/574,289, filed May 19, 2000, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/370,674, filed August 9, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,102,931. --

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
(37 C.F.R. §1.10)

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In the Claims:

After a serial number and filing date have been assigned to this application, please cancel claim 1.

Please add claims 2 - 27.

2. An intravascular device, comprising:

an elongate member;

an inflatable member attached to said elongate member, said inflatable member having an interior and an exterior;

a first lumen within said elongate member, said first lumen connecting the interior of said inflatable member and an inflation port and capable of allowing the infusion of liquid through said inflation port into the interior of said inflatable member;

a second lumen within said elongate member, said second lumen connecting the interior of said inflatable member and an exhaust port and capable of allowing the expulsion of gas from the interior of said inflatable member through said exhaust port;

a selective degassing element, said element positioned across said second lumen and capable of allowing the expulsion of gas from the interior of said inflatable member through said exhaust port and capable of preventing the expulsion of liquid from the interior of said inflatable member through said exhaust port.

3. The intravascular device of Claim 2, wherein said elongate member is a catheter.

4. The intravascular device of Claim 2, wherein said elongate member is a cannula.

5. The intravascular device of Claim 3, wherein said selective degassing element is a non-mechanically actuated valve.

6. The intravascular device of Claim 5, wherein said valve is manufactured from slited rubber.

7. The intravascular device of Claim 5, wherein said valve is manufactured from a self sealing elastomer.

8. The intravascular device of Claim 3, wherein said selective degassing element is a plug.

9. The intravascular device of Claim 8, wherein said plug is manufactured from sintered polyethylene.

10. The intravascular device of Claim 3, wherein said selective degassing element is a membrane.

11. The intravascular device of Claim 10, wherein said membrane is manufactured from Gortex.

12. The intravascular device of Claim 10, wherein said membrane is manufactured from nylon mesh.

13. The intravascular device of Claim 3, wherein said selective degassing element is a mechanically actuated valve.

14. The intravascular device of Claim 13, wherein said valve is a one-way check valve.

15. The intravascular device of Claim 3, wherein said selective degassing element is a hydrophobic filter.

16. The intravascular device of Claim 15, wherein said filter is a gas permeable membrane.

17. The intravascular device of Claim 3, wherein said selective degassing element allows the expulsion of gas and liquid from the interior of said inflatable member through said exhaust port

when said selective degassing element is in an open position, and prevents the expulsion of gas and liquid from the interior of said inflatable member through said exhaust port when said selective degassing element is in a closed position.

18. The intravascular device of Claim 3, wherein said selective degassing element is capable of simultaneously allowing the expulsion of gas from the interior of said inflatable member through said exhaust port while preventing the expulsion of liquid from the interior of said inflatable member through said exhaust port.

19. A method for degassing an intravascular device, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate member, an inflatable member mounted on the elongate member, an inflation lumen communicating with the interior of said inflatable member and an inflation port, a venting lumen communicating with the interior of said inflatable member and an exhaust port, and a selective degassing element, said element positioned within said venting lumen for expulsion of gas from said inflatable member through said exhaust port and for preventing the expulsion of liquid from said balloon through said exhaust port;

opening said degassing element; and

injecting liquid into said inflatable member, wherein gas is purged from the inflatable member through said venting lumen, through said degassing element, and through said exhaust port.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein said selective degassing element is placed in an open position by inserting a needle or hollow tube into said element.

21. The method of Claim 19, wherein said selective degassing element is placed in an open position by inserting a needle or hollow tube through said element.

22. The method of Claim 19, wherein the elongate member in a cannula.

23. The method of Claim 19, wherein the elongate member is a catheter.

24. The method of Claim 19, wherein the inflatable member is a balloon.

25. The method of Claim 19, wherein the selective degassing element is a non-mechanical valve.

26. The method of Claim 19, wherein the selective degassing element is a mechanical valve.

27. The method of Claim 25, wherein the valve is selected from the group consisting of slited rubber, self sealing elastomer, a plug, a membrane, and a hydrophobic filter.

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled claim 1. Applicant has also added claims 2 - 27 in order to more fully protect the various aspects of the invention disclosed in the specification. A clean copy of all pending claims is foregoing. In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 5, 2002

By: [signature]
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